

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Serial No.: 10/562,348 : PATENT APPLICATION

In re application of: :
Jurgen Luers

Filed: December 27, 2005 : **TELECOMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ASSEMBLY**

Examiner: Wen Wu Huang :

Group Art Unit: 2618 :

Confirmation No.: 6250 :

Attorney Docket No.: 2003P07111WOUS :

BRIEF ON APPEAL

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BRIEF ON APPEAL

Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Siemens Enterprise Communications GmbH and its related United States company Siemens Enterprise Communications Inc.

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences.

Status of Claims

Claims 13-21, 24-26 and 28-31 are pending and are the subject of this appeal. The status of these claims is that they stand rejected. Claims 1-12, 22, 23, 27, 32 and 33 are cancelled.

Status of Amendments

There were no amendments filed after the final rejection from which this appeal is taken.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

In today's society users get in touch with a variety of communication devices day after day. Each of these devices provides its own user interface, setup and last but not least its own database with entries a particular user entered in the past. Whenever a user changes the communication device in use, he will be faced with a different user interface and database entries. This is the problem to be solved.

The present application teaches a novel portable device, which is able to connect to a variety of gateways as long as these gateways provide a suitable wireless interface, e.g. Bluetooth, WLAN or the like. Regardless which gateway is used (i.e. selected by the user), the user will get the same unique user interface and database entries. As far as a login procedure is required, the novel device may handle this procedure on its own and logon the user automatically. As this device is designed to be carried on all the time, additional personal information may be entered into the device and securely stored, such as bank accounts, numbers of credit cards and so on. One (and exactly one) of the mentioned gateways may be integrated into the novel device, which in turn provides the novel feature to connect to any available gateway and to interface to a particular wireless network in parallel. The gateways are controlled by the mobile device and enable the user to make/ receive calls, send out/ receive SMS messages (just to mention a few) to the connected network. In general there is no need to think about the network in use. By selecting a particular one the user may take constraints (e.g. costs) into account.

The claims are directed to a telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish telecommunications connections. There are no means plus function clauses in the claims.

Claim 13 requires a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and a plurality of external gateways, each external gateway providing access to a communications network. Such a transceiver is illustrated in Fig. 2 as element 37 and is described at page 7, lines 4-16 and page 10, lines 16-20 of the application. There must also be a display device adapted for displaying information about a plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver. Touch screen 29 in Fig. 2 is such a display. That display is described at page 10, lines 10-14 of the application. Claim 13 further requires a selection unit adapted to select one of the plurality of external gateways displayed by the display device in order to communicate with the respective communications network via the selected gateway. Touch screen 29, shown in Fig. 2 and described at page 10, lines 10-14, of the application is such a selection unit. Finally claim 13 requires that the absence of displayed information about a particular one of the external gateways on the display device indicates that said particular one of the external gateways is not within range of the telecommunications terminal. This is described at page 9, lines 8-16 of the application.

Claims 14 through 17 depend from claim 13. Claim 14 further requires that the local-area transceiver be adapted according to a Bluetooth standard having loadware adapted for connecting to the gateway. This is described at page 10, lines 16-20 of the application. Claim 15 requires that the local-area transceiver be adapted according to a wireless LAN having loadware adapted for connecting to the gateway which is described at page 4, lines 1-5 of the application. Claim 16 adds a further requirement of a user-data memory that stores connection-data records, each record having a predetermined connection that can be established between one of the external gateways and the telecommunications terminal, wherein information about external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver defined by least one of the stored

data records is displayed for selection. The memory is element 41 in Fig. 2 and is described at page 10, lines 10-13 of the application.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and says that there must also be an authentication-data input for inputting an authentication data of a user, the data authentication-data interfacing with the local-area transceiver for transmitting the authentication data to the gateway, wherein the external gateway determines from the authentication data if the terminal is authorized to establish the connection via the gateway, and wherein information about important ones of the external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver that have authorized the terminal to establish the connection is displayed for selection. Element 43 in Fig. 2 is such a device and is described at page 6, lines 18-25, and page 10, lines 10-14 of the application.

Claim 18 depends from 17 and requires a processor and memory to provide PDA functionality that is independent of the telecommunications functions. This is shown in Fig. 2 and described at page 10, lines 7-13 of the application.

Claim 19 is an independent claim directed to a telecommunications assembly which contains a telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish a plurality of telecommunications connections. Such a terminal is shown in Fig. 2 and described at page 10, lines 1-20 of the application. There must also be a signaling mechanism adapted for signaling incoming calls to the selected connections and an input device adapted for inputting outgoing messages and a telecommunications connections data. These features are speaker 33, touch screen 29 and microphone 31 shown in Fig. 2 and described at page 10, lines 1-5 of the application. As in claim 13 there must be a display device, such as touch screen 29 in Fig. 2, adapted for displaying incoming messages and information on current availability of each of the

plurality of telecommunications connections, and a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and an external gateway or another telecommunications terminal, including traffic for establishing the telecommunications connections. See the specification at page 10, lines 1-20. The local area transceiver is element 37 in Fig. 2. Claim 19 also requires an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network and for interfacing to the selection mechanism, the signaling mechanism, the input device, and the output device, wherein the telecommunications terminal is configured as a mobile-radio-communications terminal. That internal gateway is element 45 in Fig. 2, described at page 10, lines 10-14 of the specification. Claim 19 also requires an authentication-data input mechanism allowing an authentication-data input, the authentication-data input mechanism interfacing with the local-area transceiver for transmitting the authentication data. This is element 43 in Fig. 2 described at page 10, lines 10-14. Claim 19 further requires and a plurality of external gateways, each comprising:

- a local-area transceiver adapted to receive transmission from the telecommunications terminal including the authentication-data input; and

- an access control mechanism adapted to block traffic to an unauthorized telecommunications terminal based on the authentication-data input and to release traffic to an authorized telecommunications terminal based on the authentication-data input;

- wherein each local-area transceiver for a plurality of the telecommunication terminals are configured for directly exchanging voice traffic with each other without the intermediate connection of an external network; and

- wherein absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about a particular external gateway or a particular other

telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal. One such external gateway is ISDN card 27 shown in Fig. 2 and described at page 10, lines 7-20. Another such external gateway is mobile telephone 23a in Fig. 1, described at page 9, lines 8-16.

Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and requires that the external gateway excludes, or does not have, a signaling mechanism, input device or display device. External gateway 27, which is described at page 10, lines 7-20, is such a gateway.

Claim 21 depends from claim 19 and requires that the local-area transceiver include a threshold discriminator for detecting an entry into the radio transmission range of an telecommunications terminal. Element 49 in Fig. 2 is such a discriminator and is described on page 10, lines 16-20.

Claim 24 depends from claim 17 and says that the authentication data must include information of a telecommunication terminal authorized to establish the connection to the wireless network via the terminal. This described in the specification at page 4, lines 6-10.

Claim 25 depends from claim 13 and requires the display of the plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver includes a cost of using the respective gateway to establish the telecommunication connection. This is described at page 5, lines 10-14.

Claim 26 depends from claim 13 and requires that the internal gateway be capable of connecting to a mobile radio communications network. This is described at page 10, lines 7-14.

Claim 28 is an independent claim for a telecommunications terminal in which there is a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and a

plurality of external gateways, each external gateway providing access to a communications network. This is element 37 in Fig. 2. There must also be a display device adapted for displaying current availability information about a plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver and a selection unit adapted to select one of the plurality of external gateways displayed by the display device in order to establish a telecommunication connection to the respective communications network via the selected gateway. Touch screen 29 in Fig. 2 is such a display and selection unit. See page 10, lines 1-6 of the specification. Claim 28 also requires an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network. Element 45 in Fig. 2 is such a gateway. There must be a user-data memory that stores connection-data records of the plurality of predetermined connections which can be established with the external gateways and an internal gateway. The memory is element 41 in Fig. 2 and is described at page 10, lines 10-13 of the application. Finally, the claim requires that the absence of displayed current availability information about a particular one of the gateways indicates that said particular one of the gateways is not within a communications range of the telecommunications terminal. This is described at page 9, lines 8-16 of the application.

Claim 29 depends from claim 13 and says that the user interface comprises an input device. Touch screen 29 is such an input device and is described at page 10, lines 1-6.

Claim 30 depends from claim 13 and says that the user interface comprises a display device. Touch screen 29 is such a display device and is described at page 10, lines 1-6.

Claim 31 depends from claim 13 and says that the local area transceiver directly exchanges voice traffic with a local area transceiver of a similar telecommunications terminal

without the intermediate connection of an external network. This is shown in Fig. 2 and described at page 10, lines 1-6.

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed

1. Rejection of claims 13-18, 24-26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0204076 A1 to Kotzin in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,176,849 B1 to Mooney et al.
2. Rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,343,156 B2 to Alberti.
3. Rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,968,178 B2 to Pradhan.
4. Rejection of claims 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,968,178 B2 to Pradhan.
5. Rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin, Mooney Pradhan and Alberti in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,177,287 B1 to Herring et al.

ARGUMENT

A. Nature of the prior art

U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0204076 A1 to Kotzin

The Examiner relies primarily upon U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0204076 A1 to Kotzin. Kotzin teaches a mobile device with two wireless interfaces as well. One of these interfaces is used to detect a compatible device in proximity. At this point similarities to the present invention stop! The problem solved by Kotzin is to provide an enhanced user interface by means of improved IO- capabilities (See paragraphs 0009, 0017, 0018). This goal is reached by searching for a compatible other device providing these improved IO- capabilities (See paragraph 0021). These capabilities may be a better (larger) display, availability of a full

featured keyboard, a mouse and whatever else. If the user desires, these IO- devices are used to control the mobile device in a more convenient way (See paragraph 0027). The Examiner submits that Kotzin displays information about a plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver because Kotzin speaks of external resources in paragraph 0016 and external devices in paragraph 0017. However, those paragraphs do not explain how information is presented in the display. Rather an explanation of how the display works is shown in Fig. 4.

The process begins with the step “detect external device” in box 403 of Fig. 4. Indeed, in paragraph 0028 Kotzin says, “The method begins at 403 by detecting an external device that is capable of providing an interface to the portable device...” Box 409 of Fig 4 says, “determine whether external device is available.” Box 413 does not return to step 403 to search for other available devices if the “external device” is available. Hence, the flow chart clearly indicates that only one available device can be found at any given time. Moreover, the discussion of the operation of Kotzin’s device in paragraph 0028 through paragraph 0030 repeatedly and only speaks of “the device.” For that reason the display does not and cannot display information about a plurality of external gateways. The Examiner at page 20 of the final office action points to box 417 as teaching a plurality of gateways are detected and displayed. That step says, “Display availability circumstances and conditions to user.” Yet, a single gateway may have “availability circumstances and conditions,” and when this step is read in conjunction with the paragraphs 0028 – 0030 of the specification, it is clear that only one gateway is taught.

The Examiner recognizes at page 3 of the final office action that Kotzin does not teach that the absence of displayed information about a particular one of the external gateways indicates that such gateway is not available. However, he cites U.S. Patent No. 7,176,849 B1 to Mooney et al. as disclosing this element of the claims.

U.S. Patent No. 7,176,849 B1 to Mooney et al.

Mooney discloses an electronic badge for use with a piconet. The badge exchanges a security code with each security station that the user passes and receives exemplary display information, such as a photo of the authorized user, an identification number, membership type or security level that is displayed on the badge. At column 6, lines 55-61, Mooney says, “Moreover, since the electronic wireless badge 100 will be out of range of the piconet when a wearer leaves the company facilities, displayed badge information will be lost and not be seen by the general public or anyone outside the facilities, leaving outsiders without any knowledge of the particular information used for display by a particular facility, company, etc.” The Examiner cites this paragraph as teaching that the absence of displayed information about a particular one of the external gateways indicates that such gateway is not available. However, the information being displayed by Mooney on the badge is information about the wearer, not about the security station from which information is received. Indeed, the same information may be displayed each time the wearer passes several security checkpoints. So, the absence of information on the badge would not disclose anything about the availability of particular security station. Moreover, the security station with which the badge communicates is not a gateway that gives the badge wearer access to a communication network. The Mooney reference is simply not relevant because it is not concerned with a user interface or providing a gateway to enable a user to communicate with others and does not display gateway information.

U.S. Patent No. 7,343,156 B2 to Alberti

U.S. Patent No. 7,343,156 B2 to Alberti discloses a method for logging onto a portable part of a base station. The Examiner at page 9 of the final office action cites column 2, lines 25-30 as teaching a user interface that comprises an input device and an external gateway that

excludes an input device. The cited section discloses a key for manually switching the base station into a log-on mode.

U.S. Patent No. 6,968,178 B2 to Pradhan et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,968,178 B2 to Pradhan et al. discloses a mobile telephone that has a filter set to accept only certain advertisements. The Examiner relies on Pradhan as disclosing a local-area transceiver that exchanges voice traffic. See page 10 of the office action.

U.S. Patent No. 7,177,287 B1 to Herring et al.

U.S. Patent No. 7,177,287 B1 to Herring et al. discloses a mobile transceiving unit that transmits packetized voice and data information. The Examiner at page 15 of the final office action cites this reference as teaching an external gateway that excludes a signaling mechanism and a display device.

U. S. Patent No. 7,454,090 to Wilcock et al.

Wilcock et al in U.S. Patent No 7,454,090 discloses a method for augmenting a set of image recordings in which, in addition to making image recordings, location data is recorded for locations for which the user desires an, or a further, image recording. This desired-image-recording location data is subsequently used to retrieve one or more corresponding image recordings from a service system. At page 16 of the final office action the examiner cites Fig. 11 of this reference as disclosing a telecommunications terminal wherein the internal gateway acts as an external gateway to a further telecommunications terminal.

B. The Examiner's burden of proof under 35 U.S.C. 103

All of the claims have been rejected under Section 103 as obvious from the combination of Kotzin and Mooney alone or in combination with one or more secondary references. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. "First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally

available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." MPEP § 2142. "Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success." *Id.* "Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) **must teach or suggest all the claimed limitations.**" *Id.* (emphasis added). "The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure." *Id.*

C. The pending claims are patentable over the cited references

1. Rejection of Claims 13-18, 24-26, 28 and 30 based upon Kotzin in view of Mooney.

The Examiner rejected claims 13-18, 24-26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0204076 A1 to Kotzin in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,176,849 B1 to Mooney et al. Claim 13 is an independent claim to a telecommunications terminal having a user interface adapted to establish telecommunication connections with a plurality of external gateways. This claim also requires a display device wherein the absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about a particular external gateway or a particular other telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal. The Examiner has admitted at page 3 of the final office action that Kotzin does not teach or suggest this display requirement, but cites Mooney as providing this teaching. As explained above at pages 9-10 Mooney discloses an electronic badge on which information about the wearer is displayed when the wearer is within range of a security station. Mooney teaches that nothing is displayed when the wearer is out of the range of all security stations in the network. Because the badge in Mooney does not disclose any information about a particular gateway the absence of information on the badge says nothing

about a particular gateway. Furthermore, the electronic badge of Mooney is not a telecommunication terminal having a user interface adapted to establish telecommunications connections as required by claim 13. Additionally, this badge does not enable the wearer to select one of several available gateways. Rather only one security station at any given time is connected to the badge.

Because Mooney's badge has a different purpose and functions differently from the device disclosed by Kotzin, there is no suggestion or motivation in either reference to combine their teachings. Even if it were proper to combine Kotzin with Mooney, the combination would not lead one skilled in the art to create a display which provides information about gateways to communication networks. Consequently, claim 13 is patentable over Kotzin in view of Mooney.

Because the function of Mooney's electronic badge is so different from the kinds of telecommunications terminals disclosed by Kotzin and the present application there would be no motivation to combine these two references. Only by improper hindsight was the Examiner able to combine these two references in such a way as to create the terminal of claim 13. This is yet another reason why this claim is patentable.

Claims 14-18, 24-26 and 29-31 depend directly or indirectly from patentable claim 13. For that reason these claims are also patentable.

2. Rejection of Claim 29 based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of Alberti

The Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,343,156 B2 to Alberti. Claim 29 depends from claim 13 and requires that the user interface comprise an input device. The Examiner has cited Alberti as disclosing such a user interface. But even if that be true claim 29 is patentable because Alberti does not teach or suggest a display device wherein the absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about a particular external gateway or a

particular other telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal.

3. Rejection of Claim 31 based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of Pradham

The Examiner rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,968,178 B2 to Pradhan. Claim 31 depends from claim 13 and requires that the local-area transceiver exchange voice traffic with a local area transceiver of a similar terminal without an intermediate connection to an external network. The Examiner has cited Pradhan as disclosing such an exchange. But even if that be true claim 31 is patentable because Pradhan does not teach or suggest a display device wherein the absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about a particular external gateway or a particular other telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal.

4. Rejection of Claims 19 and 21 based upon Kotzin and Mooney in View of Pradhan

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin and Mooney in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,968,178 B2 to Pradhan. Claim 19 is an independent claim to a telecommunications assembly having a terminal with a user interaction for establishing a plurality of communication connections. The claim requires both an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network and a plurality of external gateways having a local area transceiver configured to exchange voice traffic without connection to an external network. Like claim 13 this claim also requires a display a display device wherein the absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about

a particular external gateway or a particular other telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal. None of the cited references teach or suggest this display requirement. Furthermore, as explained above, there is no teaching or motivation to combine Kotzin and Mooney, and if one skilled in the art did consider those references they would not lead that skilled person to the invention of claim 19. Therefore, claim 19 is patentable over Kotzin, Mooney of Pradhan.

5. **Rejection of Claim 20 based upon Kotzin, Mooney, Pradhan, Alberti and Herring.**

Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and says that the external gateway does not have a signaling mechanism, and input device or a display device. The Examiner rejected this claim under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon Kotzin, Mooney Pradhan and Alberti in view of U.S. Patent No.7,177,287 B1 to Herring et al. But, none of these references teach or suggest a display device wherein the absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about a particular external gateway or a particular other telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable over these references.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons the claims on appeal are patentable over the cited references.
Reversal of the rejections of the appealed claims is respectfully requested.

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Claims Appendix

1.-12. (canceled)

13. A telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish telecommunications connections, comprising:

a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and a plurality of external gateways, each external gateway providing access to a communications network;

a display device adapted for displaying information about a plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver;

a selection unit adapted to select one of the plurality of external gateways displayed by the display device in order to communicate with the respective communications network via the selected gateway; and

wherein absence of displayed information about a particular one of the external gateways on the display device indicates that said particular one of the external gateways is not within range of the telecommunications terminal.

14. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the local-area transceiver is adapted according to a Bluetooth standard having loadware adapted for connecting to the gateway.

15. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the local-area transceiver is adapted according to a wireless LAN having loadware adapted for connecting to the gateway.

16. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, further comprising a user-data memory that stores connection-data records, each record having a predetermined connection that

can be established between one of the external gateways and the telecommunications terminal, wherein information about external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver defined by least one of the stored data records is displayed for selection.

17. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 16, further comprising an authentication-data input for inputting an authentication data of a user, the data authentication-data interfacing with the local-area transceiver for transmitting the authentication data to the gateway,

wherein the external gateway determines from the authentication data if the terminal is authorized to establish the connection via the gateway, and

wherein information about important ones of the external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver that have authorized the terminal to establish the connection is displayed for selection.

18. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 17, further comprising a processor and memory to provide PDA functionality that is independent of the telecommunications functions.

19. A telecommunications assembly, comprising:

a telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish a plurality of telecommunications connections, comprising:

a signaling mechanism adapted for signaling incoming calls to the selected connections;

an input device adapted for inputting outgoing messages and a telecommunications connections data;

a display device adapted for displaying incoming messages and information on current availability of each of the plurality of telecommunications connections;

a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and an external gateway or another telecommunications terminal, including traffic for establishing the telecommunications connections;

an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network and for interfacing to the selection mechanism, the signaling mechanism, the input device, and the output device, wherein the telecommunications terminal is configured as a mobile-radio-communications terminal; and

an authentication-data input mechanism allowing an authentication-data input, the authentication-data input mechanism interfacing with the local-area transceiver for transmitting the authentication data; and

a plurality of external gateways, each comprising:

a local-area transceiver adapted to receive transmission from the telecommunications terminal including the authentication-data input; and

an access control mechanism adapted to block traffic to an unauthorized telecommunications terminal based on the authentication-data input and to release traffic to an authorized telecommunications terminal based on the authentication-data input;

wherein each local-area transceiver for a plurality of the telecommunication terminals are configured for directly exchanging voice traffic with each other without the intermediate connection of an external network; and

wherein absence of displayed information on the display device of the telecommunications terminal about a particular external gateway or a particular other

telecommunications terminal indicates that said particular external gateway or particular other telecommunications terminal is not within range of the telecommunications terminal.

20. The telecommunications assembly according to claim 19, wherein the external gateway excludes a signaling mechanism, an input device, and a display device.

21. The telecommunications assembly according to claim 19, wherein the local-area transceiver includes a threshold discriminator for detecting an entry into the radio transmission range of an telecommunications terminal, the threshold discriminator is operatively connected to a communications-start control device for initiating a communications start procedure with the telecommunications terminal after entering into the radio transmission range.

22-23. (canceled)

24. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 17, wherein the authentication data includes information of a telecommunication terminal authorized to establish the connection to the wireless network via the terminal.

25. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the display of the plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver includes a cost of using the respective gateway to establish the telecommunication connection.

26. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, further comprises an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network.

27. (canceled)

28. A telecommunications terminal having a user interaction function adapted to establish a plurality of telecommunications connections, comprising:

a local-area transceiver adapted for wireless traffic between the telecommunications terminal and a plurality of external gateways, each external gateway providing access to a communications network;

a display device adapted for displaying current availability information about a plurality of external gateways within range of the local-area transceiver;

a selection unit adapted to select one of the plurality of external gateways displayed by the display device in order to establish a telecommunication connection to the respective communications network via the selected gateway;

an internal gateway for connecting to a mobile radio communications network;

a user-data memory that stores connection-data records of the plurality of predetermined connections which can be established with the external gateways and an internal gateway; and

wherein absence of displayed current availability information about a particular one of the gateways indicates that said particular one of the gateways is not within a communications range of the telecommunications terminal.

29. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the user interface comprises an input device.

30. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the user interface comprises a display device.

31. The telecommunications terminal according to claim 13, wherein the local-area transceiver directly exchanges voice traffic with a local area transceiver of a similar telecommunications

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terminal without the intermediate connection of an external network.

32-33. (canceled)

Evidence Appendix

None.

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Related Proceedings Appendix

None.